

**APPENDIX C**  
**CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION**

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*FINAL*



***PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY OF THE  
SALINE VALLEY RADAR FACILITY PROJECT, SALINE  
VALLEY, INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA***



***March 2003***



## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This study was conducted in support of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and Air Force Instruction 32-7065, *Cultural Resources Management*. This report presents the results of a Phase I cultural resources inventory conducted in June 2002 for the proposed installation of one radar and one repeater site in Saline Valley, Inyo County, California. This project involves the test boring; ground leveling; trenching; transporting of materials across the desert from Saline Valley Road to the project location; pouring concrete foundations, footings, pylons, and walkways; covering leveled ground with gravel; and installing underground electrical, piping, and grounding; prefabricated metal buildings; an antenna tower with antenna; a solar array; and fencing with lighting. The total area of potential effect (APE) for all four proposed locations is 2.7 hectares (6.6 acres). These include potential radar sites at Keyes Canyon North (Bureau of Land Management [BLM]) and McElvoy Canyon (BLM), as well as potential repeater sites at Lead Canyon North (National Park Service [NPS]) and Lead Canyon South (BLM). Three previously investigated alternative radar sites (McKenna et al. 2002) and one alternative repeater site (McKenna et al. 2001) that are potential project locations are not covered in this study. The radar sites are Grey Eagle Mine, Keyes Canyon, and Central Saline; and the repeater site is Galena Peak.

The literature search identified no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE. The field survey also noted no archaeological findings present within the APE. As long as project activities, including the movement and staging of vehicles, are restricted to the APE shown in this report, there will be no effect on archaeological resources.

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A CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION  
OF THE PROPOSED GALENA PEAK FACILITY  
IN THE SALINE VALLEY  
AREA OF DEATH VALLEY,  
INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

by,

Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal  
McKenna et al., Whittier CA

INTRODUCTION

Cultural Resources investigations for the proposed beacon radar and repeater site alternative locations in the Saline Valley area of Death Valley were initiated by McKenna et al. at the request of Panacea, Inc. of La Mirada, California (McKenna 2000). This particular project involves the installation of a repeater facility on Galena Peak and involves lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ridgecrest, Inyo County office.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the recent investigations, McKenna et al. has determined that no significant cultural resources are located at the site of the Galena Peak repeater site alternative. No evidence of prehistoric or historic resources was identified. A dirt access road leads to an area near this site - actually leading to an abandoned mine shaft identified on the USGS map as a "prospect". The road continues around the knob of Galena Peak, but does not directly impact the proposed site. Access to the site will result in an increase in the activity on this road and will likely require some level of improvement to the road. The road has not been identified as an historic alignment and, therefore, alterations to the road will not constitute an adverse impact. The prospect, itself, will not be impacted by the project.

Bill Helmer, a local Native American, is concerned that the Galena Peak location may have religious or sacred meaning for Native Americans associated with the Death Valley/Saline Valley area (the Panamint Shoshone). He requested that he be permitted to re-visit the site should it be chosen as one of the alternative facility locations - whether physical resources are identified or not.

At this time, there is no specific data to associated Galena Peak with any religious or sacred site and no physical evidence to associated the location with prehistoric use. Therefore, there will be no identifiable impacts to any potentially significant prehistoric resources.

A single prospect is located on Galena Peak, but will be avoided. The proposed project will not involve property associated with this prospect and it is considered to be outside the Area of Potential Effects (APE). This prospect has not been identified as an historic resources and evidence indicates it is of modern origin. Therefore, the proposed project - through avoidance and a lack of historic association - will not adversely impact this resource.

Overall, no potentially significant resources have been identified at the Galena Peak alternative site and, therefore, there will be no adverse impacts and no further studies are warranted at this time. In the future, however, should the Galena Peak site be chosen as an alternative facility site, McKenna et al. recommends that the area be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and Native American Observer to insure religious or sacred resources are not adversely impacted by the proposed project.



# McKenna et al.

History/Archaeology/Architecture/Paleontology

Jeanette A. McKenna, M.A.  
Owner and Principal Investigator  
Reg. Professional Archaeologist

McKenna et al. completed a standard archaeological records check through the University of California Riverside, Eastern Information Center, Riverside, California. This research was conducted as an in-house search completed by David Brunzell, Archaeological Field Director for McKenna et al. All report files, site files, historic maps, National, State, and local listings for historic properties were researched.

In addition, Jeanette A. McKenna, Owner and Principal Investigator for McKenna et al. and holder of a state wide Bureau of Land Management Cultural Resources Permit, met with the BLM Archaeologist, Judith Reed, in Ridgecrest, to review data on file with that office and to discuss the nature and project needs with respect to fieldwork and adequate coverage. Results of all research are presented in this report.

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Jeanette A. McKenna, Principal, McKenna et al.

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